

Ethics and archives

Although often containing information about people who are now dead, there are still various ethical issues that we need to think about when using archival sources:

- Language in the sources being used: is there language or attitudes within the archives that are representative of attitudes of the time which would no longer be considered appropriate? How are you going to engage with this language?
- Images: do the images you are engaging with include imagery/capture events that people may find upsetting? How are you going to use these images in your research?
- Family archives: these belong to private individuals. You will need to gain their permission to use the data in the archive. You should also talk to them about how they are comfortable with the information being used. They may want to look at your research before you publish.
- Company archives: You may need signing a contract with the company archive.